Statement by H.E. MR. AN MYONG HUN,
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At the thematic discussion on agenda item 94,
"Prevention of an arms race in outer space"

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Mr. Chairman,

Today, outer space is faced with potential threats of armed conflicts and war due to the attempts by a specific state for militarizing the outer space.

Outer space is turned into the place where the advanced science and technologies are abused and huge amount of financial resources are misused for the pursuit of military and strategic aims.

And also, the programs for militarizing outer space, which could lead to arms race are openly carried out.

The tests for developing space weapons are undertaken and even the manufacturing of space weapons and space aircrafts for promptly striking any targets on the ground are under program.

One of its clear demonstration is the development of the Missile Defense System associated with space weapon program being pursued by the United States under the pretext of ballistic missile threat from others.

If these reckless maneuvers being carried out under the pretext of "missile threat" from others are justified, the peace and security of the world could not be assured at all.

The DPRK remains consistent in opposing the militarization of outer space.

The international community has so far spared no efforts to prevent the militarization of outer space and arms race therein. These efforts have produced a certain results of establishing some systematic mechanisms and adopting important UN resolutions which could contribute to preventing arms race in outer space.

However, the existing international legal mechanisms alone cannot comprehensively and effectively prevent placement of weapons and arms race in outer space.

Establishing new legally binding framework for comprehensive and effective prevention of an arms race in outer space is becoming more and more urgent in consideration of the present reality in which a certain important agreements for those purposes are either nullified or not properly implemented.

Comprehensive prevention of an arms race in outer space would constitute fundamental conditions not only for removing the danger of arms race in outer space and guaranteeing the rights of all states for its peaceful use, but also for securing world peace.

Therefore, it is urgent for the international community to establish in early date a new legal framework to prevent comprehensively and effectively an arms race in outer space.

In this regard, the delegation of DPRK is of the view that the draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects jointly introduced by China and the Russian Federation at the Conference on Disarmament in 2008 and its updated version in 2014 could serve as positive initiative for preventing an arms race and ensuring the world peace in view of its nature and purposes.

The DPRK will remain opposed to the placement of any weapons in outer space and welcome and support initiatives aimed at preventing militarization of outer space.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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